



asian-american CHRONOLOGY

4000 B.C. The Mesopotamian Civilization began between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. The ancient city or society of Babylon was a part of it.

2500 B.C. Indus Valley Civilization began in the area known as Moenjodaro, present day Pakistan.

1,700 B.C. Huang Ho and Yangtze Valleys Civilizations began in East Asia.

563 B.C. Buddha was born in India.

551 B.C. Confucius was born in China.

6-4 B.C. Christ was born in Bethlehem in Southwest Asia.

570 A-D Muhammad was born in Arabia.

1200 Mongols conquered much of Asia.

1500 European nations began trading relations with Asia.

1526 Moguls established the Mogul Empire in India.

1550 Europeans began colonizing Asia.

1639 Japan closed its doors to European influence.

1639 First Asian Settlement at St. Malo, LA—*Filipinos jump ship in New Orleans and flee into bayous of Louisiana.*

1842 After a war with Great Britain, China opened five ports to trade with Western nations.

1847 First Asian-American College Graduate—*Yung Wing, a Chinese-American, earned a degree from Yale University and the first Asian-Pacific-American to graduate from a U.S. College.*

1882 Chinese Exclusion Act—*excluded Chinese and eventually other Asians from entering the United States.*

1885 School Segregation—*Under the Separate but Equal doctrine, San Francisco opens separate public schools for Chinese students in order to keep them out of white schools.*

1905 Japan defeated Russia and took control of Korea.

1912 First Olympic Gold Medalist—*Duke Kahanomoku of Hawaii becomes the first Asian-Pacific-American to win a gold medal.*

1912 End of monarchy in China.

1913 Alien Land Act—*California passes the Alien Land Act, barring alien immigrants, primarily Japanese and other Asian farmers, from owning or leasing land. Subsequently, many other states passed similar laws throughout the nation.*

December 7, 1941 Japan attacked Pearl Harbor and entered WW II.

1942 Japanese American Internment—*Following the declaration of war against Japan, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signs Executive Order 9066 authorizing the forced relocation and detention of Japanese-Americans, as well as over 2000 Japanese-Latin Americans.*

1943 The Fighting 442—*Responding to the War Department's call for volunteers, 12,000 Japanese American (many of them from internment camps) join all-Japanese combat units. 3200 are inducted to form the 442 Regimental Combat team, which becomes the most decorated military unit in U.S. history.*

1945-50 Decolonization of Asian nations.

1948 Asian-American Women Gold Medalists—*Victoria Manalo Draves wins the first gold medal by an American-female of Asian origin at London Olympics. Sammy Lee, a Korean-American, also won a gold medal for diving.*

1956 First Asian-American Congressman—*Dalip Sing Saund of Westmoreland, California, an Indian-American businessman, becomes the first Asian-American elected to Congress.*

1964 China detonated nuclear device.

1964 First Asian-American Congresswoman—*Patsy Takemoto Mink of Hawaii is elected to Congress.*

1965 Immigration Reform—*The Hart-Celler Immigration Act ends over 80 years of race-based exclusion of immigrants from Asia.*

1968 Ethnic Studies Strike—*Students of color at San Francisco State University and UC Berkeley organize the Third World Strike. Their efforts lead to the creation of The Ethnic Studies Department at both campuses, and eventually across the country.*

1974 India detonated nuclear device.

1974 First Asian-American Governor—*Japanese-American lawyer George Ariyoshi is elected governor of Hawaii.*

1981 Vietnam Veterans Memorial—*Chinese-American architecture student Maya Lin's design is chosen to enshrine the memory of fallen soldiers in Vietnam.*

1985 First Asian-American Man in Space—*Ellison Onizuka becomes the first Asian-Pacific-American man in space. Later, Onizuka perishes in Challenger disaster.*

1987 Japanese-American Internment Redress—*House Bill 442 is signed by President Reagan, issuing an official apology to 120,000 Japanese-Americans for their internment during World War II.*

1992 APA Heritage Month—*May is officially designated as Asian-Pacific-American Heritage Month.*

1996 First Asian-American Governor on Mainland—*Gary Locke becomes Governor of Washington State.*

1997 First Asian-American Woman in Space—*Kalpana Chawla becomes the first Indian-American woman in space. In February, 2003, she dies in Columbia disaster.*

1998 Pakistan detonated a nuclear device. Asia possesses more nuclear weapons than any other continent.

2000 First Asian man in the Cabinet—*Norman Mineta becomes Secretary of Commerce in President Clinton's cabinet.*

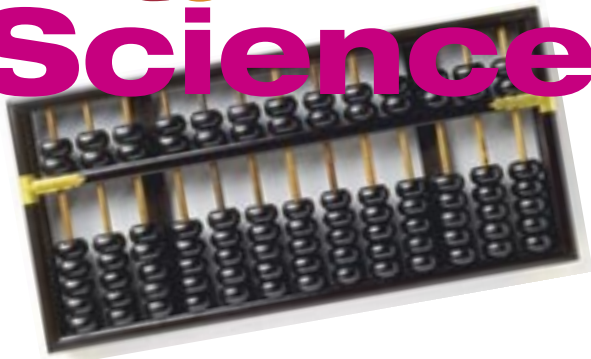
2001 First Asian-American Woman in the Cabinet—*Elaine Chao becomes Secretary of Labor in President George W. Bush's cabinet.*

2001 USA Patriot Act—*Within days after the World Trade Center tragedy, President Bush signed the USA Patriot Act (USAPA) on October 26, 2001. The Law gave significant surveillance powers to law enforcement agencies and many feared, without sufficient check and balance to protect the civil rights of the people.*

2003 Columbia disaster—*two astronauts of Asian origin perish in this disaster. Kalpana Chawla, an American of Indian origin and Ilan Roman, an Israeli flying with NASA crew.*

2003 Second round Gulf War—*American forces march into Baghdad and the country came under American occupation.*

Art & Science



Long before the western Renaissance, Asia had already experienced its era of enlightenment. It is a well documented fact that all major religions practiced today originated in Asia. Mesopotamia (modern Iraq) had already started the disciplines of medicine and mathematics before Greek philosophers theorized and developed them. Ruins of the Indus Valley Civilization at Moenjodaro (modern day Pakistan) revealed signs of advanced drainage systems and city planning.

An early Sanskrit book, Siddhaantas, embodied the doctrines concerning astronomy and arithmetic developed by Indian scholars. At Al-Hikimia (House of Wisdom) in Baghdad, Arabs cultivated Algebra and advanced Geometry by synthesizing the earlier contributions by Indian and Greek mathematicians.

The Chinese get credit for introducing paper. They are also considered to be the inventors of gun-powder during the eighth century.

Arabs, at the height of their civilization, patronize the arts and sciences, ultimately bringing them to Spain, from where they spread to the West. Moosa Al-Khwaarazmi is known as the father of Algebra. Although Hindu scholars are believed to have developed the concept of zero, the Arabs popularized the new numeral system so much that they came to be known as the Arabic Numerals in the West. In the ninth century, the Arabs established the earth was round and the first map of the globe was made. The Arabs also made contributions to physics: Explanation of the genesis of primary and secondary rainbows, invention of the pendulum and water clock.

Asians also made significant contributions to Art and Architecture; Persian poet Omar Khayyam is universally known for his romantic poetry, Rumi for Sufism. The Taj Mahal and the Great Wall of China still stand as architectural marvels built by Asians. In aesthetic and spiritual realms, Asians introduced Yoga, Tai Chi, Feng Shui and other mind and body controlling disciplines.

Asia's most significant contribution to human civilization came through the great religions that helped develop moral codes across all emerging societies. In contemporary times Mahatma Gandhi, through his non-violence movement, gave a new tool to fight oppression and produced new disciples like Martin Luther King Jr., Nelson Mandela, and Burmese peace activist Aung San Suu Kyi.

Asian facts



Asia is the world's largest and most diverse continent, which makes-up a third of the earth's land area. It has an even greater share of the world's population, roughly sixty percent, or six out of every ten humans on the planet live in Asia.

Name There are several explanations for how the continent came to be known as Asia. The Greeks called the lands east of their homeland Asia; another explanation suggests that it may be derived from the Assyrian word asu, meaning east. Yet another theory is that it was originally a local name for the plains of Ephesus and was gradually extended to include Anatolia (Asia Minor), western Asia and eventually the rest of the continent.

Description and Boundary Asia is large, complex, and colorful. A satellite view shows the Arctic Ocean in the north, Pacific Ocean in the east, Indian Ocean in the south, Mediterranean and Black Sea in the Southwest.

North America and Asia are separated by the Bering Straits. The Suez Canal divides Egypt into Asia and Africa.

The land boundary is equally as impressive. The Ural Mountains separate Europe and Asian Russia. Turkey serves as Europe's gateway into Asia and Cyprus and is the western most frontier. The south and southwestern boundaries are defined by the Indian South-Asian sub-continent and Saudi Arabian peninsula. A cluster of the Pacific Rim nations form the eastern most boundary, which includes China, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia and Vietnam.

Asia not only dwarfs other continents in landmass and population, it also offers a majestic variety of natural and man-made features. The world's tallest mountains, longest rivers, largest deserts and most

serene rainforests are located in Asia. Human imprint in the region can be traced through great civilizations and empires that once flourished on this continent.

Asian waters are littered with dots representing thousands of islands and island nations, which cover approximately 1,240,000 square miles. Some of the prominent islands and island nations in Asia include: Severnaya Zemlya, the New Siberian, Wrangel Island, Sakhalin, the Kurils, Japan, the Ryukyus, Taiwan, Hainan, the Philippines, Indonesia, Insular Malaysia, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Sri Lanka and Cyprus.

Indonesia is the most populous island and ranks as the fourth most populous nation in the world. Indonesia's population was estimated to be approximately 207 million people in the year 2000.

The Philippines is a nation of over 7000 islands. Only 400 of them are permanently inhabited and eleven large islands have 95% of Filipino population. Over a hundred dialects and languages are spoken in the Philippines.

The world's oldest city is Damascus, Syria. This large and thriving metropolis dates back to the Iron Age (8th and 9th centuries BC).

The most populous city is Tokyo, Japan, with 26,444,000. Of the ten most populous countries in the world, 6 are Asian. China is in first, with 1,273,111,290.



Significant Asian lakes

Aral Sea; Caspian Sea; Dead Sea; Lake Baikal; Lake Balkhash; Sea of Galilee.
The Sea of Galilee, of course has spiritual significance as the place where Christ began his ministry.

Significant Rivers in Asia

Yangtze	3,964 miles	Salween	1,750 miles
Ob-Urtysh	3,459 miles	Brahmaputra	1,800 miles
Yenisey-Angara	3,440 miles	Euphrates	1,795 miles
Huang Ho	3,395 miles	Amu Darya	1,550 miles
Mekong	2,700 miles	Ural	1,550 miles
Amur	2,800 miles	Kolyma	1,323 miles
Lena	2,734 miles	Ganges	1,560 miles
Indus	1,900 miles	Irrawady	1,337 miles
Syr Darya	1,380 miles	Xi Jiang	1,200 miles



Mount Goodwin Austin (K-2), Kashmir Pakistan

Highest Elevations

Asia has the highest average elevation of the continents and contains the sharpest relief.

The highest peak in the world:
Mount Everest
Nepal-Tibet
(29, 035ft/8850 meters)

Mount Goodwin Austin (K-2)
Kashmir Pakistan
(28,250ft/8611 meters)

Kanchanjunga
Nepal-India
(28,208ft/8598 meters)

The mountain system of Central Asia has provided the continent's great rivers with water from their melting snows as well as natural fortification over the history.

Some of the world's greatest mountain ranges are the Himalayas, the Karakorum, the Kunlun, the Tian Shan, and Hindu Kush.

Lowest Elevations

The Dead Sea is the lowest point on the earth, 1,310 ft/399 meters below sea level. It is known to have the highest level of salt and other minerals in its water, approximately nine times saltier than ocean water. It lies between Israel and Jordan. It also became very famous since the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls.

The Mariana trench (36,198 ft/1,103 meters) **is the deepest spot** located east of the Philippines between Indonesia and Japan. **The deepest continental trough** is located in **Lake Baikal**, which is 5,314 feet (1,165 meters) below sea level.

Physical & Geographical FEATURES



Asia is the largest continent that covers a third of earth's landmass, 17, 226,00 square miles (44, 614,000 sq. kilometer). Geographically it falls into several sub-sections and often people do not even realize that these sub-divisions are parts of Asia.

Southwest Asia includes Iran, Turkey, nations of the Fertile Crescent and Arabian Peninsula, and is characterized by an arid climate and irrigated agriculture, massive gas and the petroleum reserves and predominance of Islam.

South Asia also known as the Indo-Pakistan sub-continent includes, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bharat (India), Pakistan, Sri Lanka and the small Himalayan nations. The area is naturally fortified from the rest of Asia by some of the highest mountain ranges. Entry in the region is possible through select few passes such as the historical Khyber Pass (Pakistan), which was Alexander's route into the South-Asian sub-continent. Buddhism, Hindi, and Islam are the dominant faiths. The climate varies and regions include the rich Ganges Delta and Indus-River Valley. People are of Indo-Aryan stock and original Dravidians.

Southeast Asia often overlaps with the Far East and the nations of the Southeastern peninsula, the East Indies, the Philippines, Malaysia, Burma, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam. The region is characterized by monsoon climate, great cultural and ethnic diversity with a fusion of Indian and Chinese cultures and people.

East Asia covers the countries around the Pacific rim such as Brunei, China, Japan, Hong Kong and Taiwan, just to name a few. The region is often known as the Far East, which is located in the mid-latitude on the Pacific Ocean, and characterized by cultures strongly influenced by civilizations of Huang He and the Yangtze river systems. This is considered to be the most industrialized region of Asia.

Russian Asia is the northern third of Asia that consists of the vast region of Siberia and the Russian Far East.

Central Asia is in the center of the continent. It comprises newly independent countries created from former Soviet Republics. It is characterized as desert with considerable amount of oil and gas reserves, mostly irrigated agriculture and traditional nomadic herding.

Other identifiable sub-divisions are often called the Middle East, Asia Minor and Antolia. The Middle East includes the countries of the Fertile Crescent and Gulf states. Asia Minor is identified as Turkey, which sometimes is also described as Anatolia.



The Mandarin Duck's basic diet consists of water plants, rice and other grains, unlike its relative, the Tyrannosaurus Rex.

The Mandarin duck is held in high esteem by the Japanese and the Chinese. In these countries, the birds serve as a symbol of happiness and marital fidelity. They live in the forests of China and Japan, and prefer wooded ponds and fast flowing rocky streams to swim, wade, and feed in. Did you know that the Tyrannosaurus Rex is a relative of the tiny mandarin duck? Although dinosaurs are no longer roaming our planet, many scientists believe that there is one lineage of dinosaur thriving today, birds.

Tallest Building In The World



Petronas Twin Tower—Malaysia

In 1996 the Petronas Twin Towers in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia became the tallest building in the world. These elegant towers are a glamorous symbol of modernity and traditional Malay culture. These mammoth steel and concrete structures have all the qualities of a modern commercial structure. They remind one of soaring minarets of Islamic architecture reflecting the Muslim-multicultural character of Malaysia.

The geometric features of the building are described by architects as symbolizing Unity, Harmony, Stability, and Rationality all important Islamic principles.

- 1483 feet (452 meters)
- 88 floors
- 3.7 million square feet of occupancy space
- Connected sky bridge
- 76 elevators
- 58 double deckers
- 52 person capacity

In related news, at 1,671 feet high, the Taipei 101 Building will have 101 floors. When completed in January 2004, it will be the tallest structure in the world.



Thailand



Pakistan



Thailand

Asian-American



Taiwan

Women in Asia

Contrary to the negative perception in the West, Asian women have always played a very pivotal role in the family as well as society at large.

Asian countries have elected more female heads of nations than the rest of the world combined, a feat even the United States and most European nations have not yet accomplished.

The following is a list of notable Asian women:

- BANGLADESH - Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister; Khaleda Zia, former Prime Minister
- BHARAT (INDIA) - Indira Ghandi, former Prime Minister
- PAKISTAN - Benazir Bhutto, former Prime Minister
- PHILIPPINES - Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, President; Corazon Aquino, former President
- SRI LANKA - Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga, President; Sirimavo Ratwatte Dias Bandaranaike, former Prime Minister (Bandaranaike served 2 past terms as Prime Minister and is the first woman in the world to hold the office of Prime Minister.)
- INDONESIA - Megawati Sukarnoputri, President
- TURKEY - Tansu Ciller, former Prime Minister
- ISRAEL - Golda Meir, former Prime Minister
- MONGOLIA - Suhbaataryn Yanjmaa, President



Mesopotamia: Traces of the earliest Asian civilization dating back to 3000 B.C. are found in the Fertile Crescent region that is the valleys of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. The region includes parts of what are now Jordan, Iraq, Israel, and Syria. The Sumerians during this era developed a form of writing called cuneiform, and used it to inscribe clay tablets.

Indus Valley: Archaeological discoveries at Moenjodaro, in present day Pakistan reveal the traces of an advanced Bronze Age culture. This culture developed in South Asia during 2500-1500 B.C.

Huang Ho and Yangtze Valley: The third Asian civilization flourished in the 1700 B.C. in the region that is present day North and Central China. During this period pictographs (simple drawings representing words) were developed that eventually became the basis of the written Chinese language.



Japan

Great Asian Civilizations Language

The linguistic diversity is a daunting challenge for Asian society. In Madhya Pradesh, an Indian state, people speak more than 375 languages and dialects. The major Asian languages are listed below: Cantonese and Mandarin - China, Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan Bengali, Hindi and Urdu - South Asia Japanese - Japan Farsi or Persian - Iran, parts of Afghanistan and Azerbaijan Arabic, Hebrew and Sanskrit are languages of great religious significance.



Asian-Americans



Religions

Asia is the cradle of all the great religions of the world such as Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Sikhism, Zoroastrianism and many others. Only Christianity spread and grew outside of Asia. Buddhism moved out of India, its birthplace, and spread in many different forms throughout Southeast Asia. Islam spread east and has far more Muslims outside Arabia, its birthplace. These religions transcend every walk of life in Asian society and place a remarkable imprint on people, their values and traditions. Although Islam and Hinduism are the dominant religions in Asia, Buddhism, Christianity, Confucianism, Judaism, Shinto, Taoism, Sikhism, and Zoroastrianism are also practiced throughout many Asian societies.



Evolution of Arabic Numerals

The commonly used numbers throughout the world today are known as the Arabic numerals. The Arabs advanced and popularized the earlier concepts developed in India. Unlike Roman numerals, the Arabic numerals have a profound capacity to express huge quantities in a very concise manner. After some resistance, the West adopted these numerals as a replacement to the Roman numerals for common use. Today, these numerals are used world wide. The above image shows the evolution of Arabic numerals.

Photo: ♣ Modern Arabic (western); ♠ Early Arabic (western); ♠ Arabic Letters (used as numerals); ♣ Modern Arabic (eastern); ♠ Early Arabic (eastern); ♠ Early Devanagari (Indian); ♠ Later Devanagari

People & Society

Asia is the most populous continent. It has sixty percent of the world's people or six out of every ten humans live in Asia. Asian diversity is colorful and complex. Most people in the Far East are of Mongoloid race. The inhabitants of West Asia and the region known as the Middle East are largely of Semitic stock. The people who live in the region known as South Asia (which includes Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka) are Dravidians and Indo-Aryans. Southeast Asia has great ethnic and cultural diversity, many of its people being derived from the rest of the continent. Southeast Asia offers a rich fusion of Chinese, Indian, and Malay people and cultures.

The population of Asia is estimated to be 3,785,470,000 as of 2002.

Asia is the home of some of the world's oldest civilizations. The empires of Sumer, Babylonia, Assyria, India, and Persia in the past, as well as the contemporary Ottoman and Mogul empires have left a rich imprint on Asian society.



India



China



Mission STATEMENT

The Miami-Dade County Asian-American Advisory Board was established on July 22, 1997. Its mission is to serve in an advisory capacity to the Board of County Commissioners, the County Administration, the community, and all agencies and persons in Miami-Dade County, Florida, with respect to matters pertaining to the Asian community of Miami-Dade County.

The 26 members of the Asian-American Advisory Board are appointed by the Board of County Commissioners to serve on a volunteer basis. Membership on the Board reflects the diverse culture and ethnic backgrounds represented in Miami-Dade County's growing Asian-American community. The Board helps advance the interests of Asian-Americans in our community. Other duties of the Board include promoting the activities and participation of Asian-Americans in civic, cultural, commercial and community affairs; promoting a positive image of Asian-Americans and their many contributions to society, promoting the cultural heritage of Asian-Americans and eliminating ignorance and bigotry towards Asian-Americans. The Board meets regularly on the second Tuesdays of every month, barring some scheduling changes due to holidays. All meetings are open to the public.

The Asian-American Advisory Board is a part of the Office of Community Relations under the County Manager's Office. Miami-Dade County provides staff and support to the Board. The Board also has established a trust fund with the County to accept monetary contributions to help support its activities.

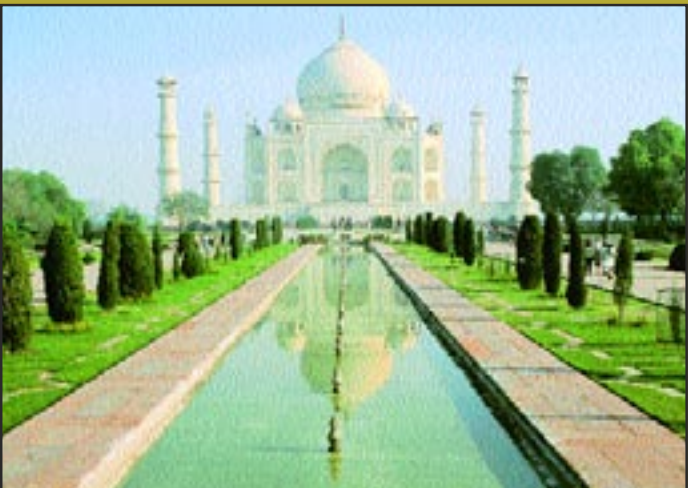
BOARD'S MESSAGE

This brochure offers bite-size information about various aspects of Asia. It is prepared to acquaint the reader about the continent, and the people of Asian origin in the United States, their achievements and contributions to our society.

It is yet another attempt in our efforts to share information about Asia with the community. Information and education are always the most effective instruments to overcome fear, mistrust and ignorance. It brings understanding and allows people to reach out to one another and be good neighbors.



Taiwan



The Taj Mahal is located in Agra India. It was built by Mogul emperor Shah Jehan during 1630-1653 as a tribute to his queen who is buried there.

Asian nation-states and their capitals

Afghanistan, Kabul	Amenia, Yerevan
Azerbaijan, Baku	Bahrain, Manama
Bangladesh, Dhaka	Bhutan, Thimphu
India, Delhi	Cambodia, Phnom Penh
Brunei, Bander Seri Begawan	Cyprus, Nicosia
China, Beijing/Peking	Georgia, Tbilisi
East Timor, Dili	Iran, Tehran
Indonesia, Jakarta	Israel, Jerusalem
Iraq, Baghdad	Jordan, Amman
Japan, Tokyo	North Korea, Pyongyang
Kazakhstan, Astana	Kuwait, Kuwait City
South Korea, Seoul	Laos, Vientiane
Kyrgyz Stan, Bishkek	Malaysia, Kuala-Lumpur
Lebanon, Beirut	Mongolia, Ulan Bator
Maldives, Male	Nepal, Katmandu
Myanmar, Rangoon	Pakistan, Islamabad
Oman, Muscat	Qatar, Doha
Philippines, Manila	Saudi Arabia, Riyadh
Russia, Moscow	Sri Lanka, Colombo
Singapore, Singapore City	Taiwan, Taipei
Syria, Damascus	Thailand, Bangkok
Tajikistan, Dushanbe	Turkey, Ankara
Tibet, Lhasa	United Arab Emirates, Abu Dhabi
Turkmenistan, Ashgabad	Vietnam, Hanoi
Uzbekistan, Tashkent	Yemen, Sana

Two Asian countries, Russia and Turkey, are partially located in Europe. Before the Suez Canal was built in the 1860's Asia and Africa were connected and one could walk from one continent into the other. The Suez Canal not only divided Asia and Africa, it also divided a country too. Most of Egypt is located in Africa, whereas, the eastern portion separated by the Suez Canal is located in Asia.

Alex Penelas
Mayor

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

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Miami-Dade County provides equal access and equal opportunity in employment and services and does not discriminate on the basis of disability.

"It is the policy of Miami-Dade County to comply with all of the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act."

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10/03

Asians in Space

The first Asian to propel in space was Captain Rakesh Sharma, who also became the first Indian in space in 1984, piggybacking on a Soviet program.

In 1985 Sultan Salman Abdulaziz Al-Saud became the first Asian and Saudi citizen to make a space trip on an American mission on June 17, 1985.

Mamoru Mohri, Soichi Noguchi and Koichi Wakata were three Japanese astronauts stationed at the Johnson Center in Houston, Texas, in the NASA program.

On February 1, 2003, the ill-fated Space Shuttle Columbia crashed over Texas skies, the crew included two Asian heroes: Kalpana Chawla, an American of Indian origin; and Ilan Roman, an Israeli citizen.

Kalpana Chawla, Mission Specialist 2 Kalpana Chawla, 41, was an aerospace engineer and an FAA Certified Flight Instructor. Selected by NASA in December 1994, Chawla logged more than 376 hours in space.

Ilan Ramon, Payload Specialist 1 Ilan Ramon, 48, a colonel in the Israeli Air Force, was a fighter pilot who was the only payload specialist on STS-107. Approved by NASA in 1998, he was making his first spaceflight.

